

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 1-3, 5-16 and 18-31 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 4-15, 17-20, 23 and 26-29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 16 have been amended to incorporate the limitations required by (now canceled) claims 4 and 17, respectively. Independent claims 1 and 16 and their respective dependents are thus allowable.

Independent claims 5, 15, 18, 23 and 26-27 have been rewritten in independent form. Applicant thus submits that these claims and their respective dependents are allowable.

Applicant notes that editorial amendments have been made throughout the claims in addition to rewriting the claims in independent form.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1-3, 16, 21-22, 24-25 and 30-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Smith et al. As discussed above, all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant thus respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (IDS):

Applicant filed a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) on July 6, 2005. Official consideration and citation of the references listed on the Form PTO-1449

BELL et al.
Application No. 09/830,459
September 28, 2005

(copy enclosed) of the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is respectfully requested.

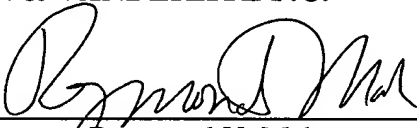
Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____


Raymond Y. Mah
Reg. No. 41,426

RYM:sl
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203
Telephone: (703) 816-4044
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100